

185/9

THE
REPLY
OF

George Boothe, Esquire:

TO
Some things alledged against him by
the now Committee at *Leycester*.

In a certaine printed paper intituled, *An Examination Examined, or, A full and moderate Answer to Major Innes, &c.*



London printed 1645.

54, L. M. Robinson

THE
REPLY

OF
George Boott's Epigram:

TALE

Some things alleged against him by
the new Community in 1793.
In a certain printed paper, dated
London, 1793, or 1794, where the
Author's Name is not given.

London printed 1794.



To the well-affected Gentry and Inhabitants of the Towne and County of
LEYCESTER.

Gentlemen,

Here is a controversie betweene my selfe and some residing amongst you, I am puzzled to tell you who they are; some will have them to be the reare of a Committee, I would willingly terme them Gentlemen, but I am afraid of offending; yet because I desire to be courteous, and the whole sometimes receiving denomination from the nobler, not the greater part, I will adventure. If you will have them as they shine in their own Sphere, almost in conjunction with Britannicus and his Associates, they are Peter Temple, Vic. Thomas Hefilrige, John Brown, Henry Smith, William Hewet, Francis Smalley, William Standley, their number at first made me suspect them to be Planets; if so, I am sure malignant ones: Mistake me not, I doe not meane for their affection to the Parliament, for I will not passe censure upon hearts. The ground of the quarrell tenders it selfe to you in my insuing vindication, wherein let me borrow from you witnesse in these particulars; first, if the sense of the Gentlemen Pamphleters compleat malice should distort any harsh expressions from me, which I shall labour to qualifie; I aime them at their actions, not their persons or authority. Secondly, that by the Committee, I doe not intend

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those

The Epistle Dedicatory.

those, whether Gentlemen or other, whose dislike of these mens proceedings hath caus'd them to renounce their society, but the present subscribing Heptarchie. Lastly, least this my vindication should to some appeare out of season, and others expect some elaborate peece, I desire you will be advertized, that till the eighteenth of this present October, I had not the happinesse to be acquainted with this profound peece of their's. I shall conclude with humble suit, that you will be pleased in this great conflict to stand judges, and see no ill play be offered to, Gentlemen,

X Dunham Massie in
Cheshire. Octob. 28.

1645.

Your faithfully welwishing
servant,

G. Booth.



To the Reader.

VVhen thou dost meet with any sentence in an other Character, thus [] guarded, receive it as my Adversaries; when otherwise, as mine. I will trouble thee no further. Farewell.

Thine G. Booth.



The Reply of George Boothe, Esq; &c.

Plainesse best becomes truth : In this dresse shall I present this my Vindication, and that tediousnes may neither disadvantage me nor displease you, I shall avoid all unnecessary circumlocutions, and apply my selfe to the businesse. May you therefore please to take notice, that the eighteenth of this instant *October*, there came to my hands a certaine printed Paper, Intituled, *An Examination Examined*, subscribed, *Peter Temple, Vic. Thomm Heslridge, John Erowne, Henry Smith, William Hewet, Francis Smalley, William Standley*, charging divers hainous matters upon me; the Treason lyes couched in a Letter, which, with the Accusation thereupon grounded, for satisfaction I here insert.

For the Lord GREY.

My Lord,

BEing arrived at this place, which by reason of your publike and private interest in it, layes claime to your utmost indeavours for the preservation of it. I shall make bold to present your Lordship with the weake condition it is in; most obvious to the unobserving eye; by all mens accompt there are not above two hundred Souldiers in the Towne, and those as peremptory against Discipline as their Governours are ignorant of it: I am most confident; nay durst hazard my life and
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fortune upon it, that five hundred resolute well managed Soldiers, at anytime, night or day, would make themselves master of this Towne, which if lost, will take away all Commerce from all the North-West of England, and I can assure you, it is Gods Providence alone in keeping it from the Enemies knowledge, and suppressing their courage, that is this Townes defence: But when we neglect to serve God in his Providence, by the adhibition of second meanes, it is just with God to leave us to our owne strength, which is nothing but weaknesse. The Grand Masters, most sensible of danger, and carefull of their owne security, have all of them got houses in a place of this Towne, called the Newarke, where they are fortifying themselves as strong as may be, which will prove, (as I feare) of most dangerous consequence; for I perceive the Townesmen much discontented, conceiving themselves destined by the Committee for the Enemies mercy. I assure you, my Lord, I espie discontent dispercing it selfe very fast abroad in this Towne; and if your Lordships care prevent not, I expect very shortly to heare ill newes from this place. Pardon my boldnesse, excuse my hast, and accept of my profession of being

My Lord,

Leicester, April.
12. 1645.

Your Lordships most humble
Servant,

G. BOOTH.

The Committees Comment upon this.

ANd for Colonell Boothers Letter, which beares Date from Leicester, (yet peradventure might be contrived elsewhere)

elsewhere) we past it over before, but since it comes to us reprinted, we shall presume to examine some particulars, omitting the filed phrase, and fall upon the substance: First he saies, That by all mens accounts there were not above two hundred Souldiers in the Town. That is confuted by the confession of the Author, who confesses foure hundred and fifty, and a more particular accompt of five hundred, besides Townesmen and the Horse Troops. Secondly, That the Souldiers were as peremptory against Discipline as the Governours were ignorant of it. To which if we should have answered, that this young Gentleman spake more then he knew, it might have stood well enough, but we say and are confident in it, that there are amongst us, that have secne more in matters of War, and beene in more Garrison Townes before he was borne, then ever he saw or came in since. And whereas he speaks with so much confidence, That he would hazard life and fortune, that he would take the Towne at any time, day or night, with five hundred men. We say, it is no difficult thing for so young a Gentleman to loose both life and fortune; but we hope the Enemies losse will teach this young Gentleman to beware of rash undertakings, especially in print, it being confest by Colonell Lesley, that they lost few lesse then one thousand men, and of them two Colonels, foure Majors, three other eminent persons, whose names they were not willing to reveale, all buryed in Martins, and ten buryed in Margarets Church, many more in other Churches, these being all Commanders of note, besides many of the same Ranke being wounded dyed since, and were buryed at Leicester. And whereas he further adds, That the Grand Masters, (as he in scorne tearms us,) most sensible of danger, have all of them gotten Houses in the Newark. This also is as true, as that Captaine Hurst was killed; for of sixteene of the Committee

there was eleven had Houses or Lodgings in the Towne, and not one of them removed, and some of us dwelt in Houses in the Newarke before the Warre began. And whereas he saith, That he perceived the Townesmen much discontented with the fortifying of the Newarke, conceiving themselves destined by the Committee to the Enemies mercy. To this we answer, that certainly this young Gentleman alighted at a Malignant Inne, and unlesse the Malignants of the Towne attended him there, and desired him to preferre this complaint, we neither know nor imagine how this came about, for he spake not with the Committee, nor a Common Hall, and the Townesmen who were of the Committee subscribed the Order for the fortifying of the Newarke, though their Houses stood in the Towne. And whereas the Author (we) is so well assured of Colonell Boothers good intentions in that diswading Letter; Wee conceive young men seldome know their owne intentions, neither doe wee his; this wee are certaine, that this Letter hath ruined us, both Towne and Country; and we cannot but stand amazed to see a stranger write with that confidence of things he understood not, and of us he knew not: And wee have againe re-printed the Letter, hoping that by time and re-view this young Gentleman may come to give the Towne and Country some satisfaction, &c.

Peter Temple, Vic.	William Hewet.
Thomas Hefilrige.	Francis Smalley.
Iohn Browne.	William Standley.
Henry Smith.	

I shall

I Shall beg so much time before I enter upon my matter, to let you know, that had these Gentlemen made use of that reason and moderation so much pretended, they might have stopt that just returne their vehemency and bitterness doth exact, for I here proclaime my unwillingnesse of entring into this kind of dispute; could the slighty tearmes so frequent in this part of their Pamphlet have satisfied their splenaticke appetites, I had not disturb'd their ease, but since they have not thought fit to rest there, if my Pen touch the quick, let them fault their owne unrulinesse; to be fallly acqui'd of the losse of a Town and County, will exasperate; now to what is before me I shall take leave to make use of their owne method; Then omitting their impertinencies, I shall strictly examine those particulars they insist on, and thus I wipe away their aspersive imputations. Here they begin [*And for Colonell Boothers Letter which beares date from Leycester (yet peradventure might be contrived elsewhere)*] this charge is doubtfull, therefore doth not oblige to answering, it likewise forces me upon the proof of a negative, which between party and party is very difficult; yet to this I reply, some questions are not to be resolv'd, but by the proposall of another, this being of those, I shall desire to know what end I could have in contriving this Letter elsewhere? when this is answered, you have me cleared and the scene altered. But to satisfie the world I here protest it for truth, that till my coming to that Towne, it was not in my thoughts to write any Letter of that nature; and had not their printed Book, bearing the name of a *Narration of the siege and taking of Leycester* furnished me, I could not have been able to have exposed my letter to publick view. The next thing they carp at, is my account of the souldierry then in Town, which was not of above two hundred; this say they [*is confuted by the confession of the Author, who confesses four hundred and fifty*] learnedly, and no lesse wittily argu'd; here I shall crave leave to make a digression most expedient for the Readers information, because the word Author comes in odly; you are therefore to know, that one Major *Innes* an eye-witnesse of the management of businesse in the time of the siege of Leycester, hath lately publisht the weaknesse of the place, and of managers of affaires there (the Committee) this Gentleman, as

should appear to shew this Town was not only at that time, but had alwaies been in a feeble condition, produces my letter formerly by them Printed; to this the said Committee make reply in this their whifling Pamphlet, a page whereof they have pleased to bestow upon me, so that when in their sentences you finde this word author or (we) you must know it is to be Major *James*, what I set down concerning this, is but what I collect by circumstance out of this paper of theirs, other helps I have none; but to return to the businesse in hand, my adversaries were not well adviz'd, otherwise I am so charitable to hope they would not have Printed such a n absurdity; thus creeps their argument [*Colonell Booth saith, that by all mens account April the twelfth there were not above two hundred souldiers in the Towne, this is confuted by Major Innes confession, who acknowledgeth, that about the last of May following there was four hundred and fifty*] admirable dependency, exquisite Chronologie; I am confident by this time ingenuity hath exploded this as rediculous, and freed me from further refutation. But I shall not rest so, to prove them that this account of mine not only might be, but probably was true, I shall appeal to the judgement of souldiers upon my adversaries own confession, say they [*a more particular account of five hundred*] if upon the approach of so potent an army as the Kings, they had for the defence of the Towne but five hundred Enlisted souldiers; is it not very probable, that at the writing of my letter being full six weeks before, and in the time of their security (for so I may very aptly call it) they did not exceed two hundred; sure they will not reply, that what they had in the Towne in the time of the siege, were their constant strength, then they would confute themselves, for in the muster of their men they have this clause, [*and 150. of the Country-men*] which all men though of small experience know are no constant force, but cald in upon occasions, and hence I shall offer to your observation, that it is not impossible, that the 300. which make my 200. their 500. came in the same time the 150. Country-men did. Before I proceed, I shall searck into an improbability they would faine obtrude upon me in this their charge [*a more particular account of five hundred besides Towns-men and the Horse Troops*] here they mistake againe, for peruse that sentence in my letter this hath relation
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to, and you shall finde I doe not affirme that there was not above 200 men, but thus, not above 200. souldiers, by whom I understood enlisted souldiers for field or Garrison; had I in this account made use of the general term of men, it might have comprehended Commanders, common souldiers, Committees, Aldermen, Towns-men &c, that thus I intended it not, I am confident my adversaries will clear me, if not, they more wrong themselves then me, and my expression will acquit me, having restricted it to the tearm of souldiers in my account therefore of 200. souldiers I did not include the Townes-men, of whose number (being a stranger) I must needs be ignorant; the rest concerns the Troops, or as they singularly term them Horse-troops; if any were in Town 'tis strange, for I protest to the best of my knowledge, the most Horses I saw were in Carts, coming in and going out of Town, if they had an *else*, I am sure they were invisible (at least to me, & to all that accompanied or attended me) & certainly coming early over night, and staying late next day, watring time would have discovered some of them to us, especially being lodg'd in the chiefe, most open, and spacious street. I am sorry the account in my letter hath so displeas'd them, for now I must fall short, and doe declare, that I durst engage that life and fortune which they so much slight (but not so despicable as they make them) there were not at time neer 200. enlisted foote souldiers; to induce you to beleve I have ground for this, I shall most faithfully enform you what souldiery I there saw; at my coming to town, upon the guard which receives Northampton way, I found one man, with (I'll be so favourable as to call it) a half pike, though scarce so good, this I protest (if my memory fail me not) was all I could spy at my entrance; here let me tell you, that before my approach I sent one into Town to make known my coming to the guard, that I might receive no stop, and to make provision against my arrivall, so that 'tis probable for the credit of their Garrison they would make their Guard at least as strong as usually, while I was in Towne; but of some Gentlemen of the Country and Officers, who casually were there that day I came in, I did not see one sword walke the streets; and be pleased to take notice, that I was there from after three of the Clocke in the after-noone, till almost eleaven next day; at my going out of Towne, upon the Guard at Sunday bridge (for so I take it its nam'd) I found one Musketeer, an assistant with a birding peece, and a Pikeman; these I am confident the most. All this I avow to my best remembrance is truth; I have been more plain and

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us'd more repetitions then otherwise I would have done, because I desire in this last reply to descend to my adversaries apprehensions, and would not by any ambiguity give them occasion to cavill; and now I leave it to the ingenious and experienced in martiall affairs to judge whether my account be groundlesse or no. Having done with this, here succeeds an unkindnesse they take at this expression in my Letter, *and those* (meaning Souldiers) *as peremptory against discipline, as their Governours are ignorant of it*: Oh this is hard of concoction, yet sure, had they (I meane the Committee) considered well of it, this might have been swallow'd down, for he that ignorantly erres hath title to pardon, but a knowing transgressor is excluded. For these Gentlemen, such experienced Souldiers, to put a Towne of such consequence into such an indefensible posture, 'tis an aggravation of their fault; but whatever comes on't, they will be thought brave expert blades, which that you may beleieve, you must know they have beene [*in more Garrison Townes before he was borne, then ever he saw, or came in since*] but where is the advantage got? where is the improvement? a Gowne makes not a Lawyer, nor a Garrison Towne every man in it a compleat Souldier; I would gladly know what is become of this dexterity in matters of warre, that it cannot be discovered in judgement, or action; for their judgement, because a Bullet at utmost range from one of their great Guns at *Cole-Overton* accidentally dropt into *Ashby Towne*, therefore to use their owne words [*Cole-Overton was a Garrison within Cannon shot of Ashby*] 'tis but a small matter, not all out a mile and halfe, Ile assure you a good Gunne to carry so farre levell, for so I hope they meane it, otherwise tis not within shot, but range. Another strong evidence of their judgement you have in a part of this their Pamphet preceding my charge, where apologizing in Captain *Hackers* behalfe for dismantling his Garrison at *Kirby* and retreating to *Leicester* by approbation, they make themselves accessary to much weaknesse; take notice, it is not my intention this should any way reflect upon Captaine *Hacker*, whose person and actions I am altogether ignorant of, and therefore would not for a world meddle with either; thus they write, [*untill Captaine Collins of Burley met him, and told him that Colonell Rossiters horse were all routed, and that he had seen an end of all his brave horse and men, and had not a man left to stand in the face of an enemy; and told him further, that the enemy had twenty bodies of horse, and that their forlorne hope was at bigge as Colonell Rossiters body, &c.*]

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Vpon this intelligence, my adversaries justifie Captaine Hackers retreat, but I hope he had better ground : let us examine the enemies number, according to this believed intelligence ; the enemy had twenty bodies, their forlorne hope as big as Col. Rossiters body. Suppose Col. Rossiters body but 500. that sure will be allowed : the enemies forlorne-hope was then 500. there followes this forlorne-hope 20. bodies : sure every body should be bigger then the forlorne-hope : allow them but as big, compute all, twenty bodies of horse, and a forlorne-hope, according to this low account, amount to no more then ten thousand five hundred horse ; I must confesse, these Gentlemen are to be commended for keeping such due proportion in their discourse ; a gun that shoots, neare a mile and halfe point-blank, and a body of ten thousand five hundred horse at least, this is their judgement. That their actions do not speak them souldiers, this I am confident the poore plundred County of Leicester will take out of my hands to make good, and will tell you, that a small despicable baffled number of Asaby men take their vagaries whither they please, and not long since carried away out of a Church, within two miles of Leicester it selfe, divers honest, able, and sufficient men for terming the souldiers peremptorie against discipline ; it was according to the information I had received from some of their own Officers, who did me the honour to visit me at my lodging : and least my very good friends should prove too successfull in their endeavours of rendring me odious to the souldiery of that town and County ; I desire all to take notice, that in my expression I intended the souldiers peremptorinesse as an effect of their Governours the Committees ill discipline. And though I never assumed the name of an experienced souldier, yet (to take notice of their detraction) I know so much of souldiery, to maintaine this as a certain axiom, that, where there is a competency of pay, and good discipline, there will be obedient souldiery ; men being rationally, are reducible to order. To leave this, their discourse leads me now to an encounter with a monstrous birth of ridiculous mistakes, and falsities, you shall have them as I find them ordered : the first in these words [*And whereas he speaks with so much confidence, that he would hazzard life and fortune, that hee would take the towne, &c.*] alas, they understand not English ; peruse (I pray) that part of my Letter ; I am most confident, nay, durst hazzard my life and fortune upon it, that 500 resolute well-mannaged souldiers at any time, night or day, would make themselves masters of this towne : Here Reader ob-

serve, I do not say, that I will undertake with 300. men to take the towne, but on the contrary by the word well-mannaged 'tis evident, I did purpose the Commander of these five hundred a man of more experience, then I or my adversaries can brag of, whose abilities might dispose of them to the best advantage; Well, they have stated the question, take notice of their subtil answer [*We say, it is no difficult thing, for so young a Gentleman, to lose both life and fortune*] O the exuberancy of wit! the second is here, [*but we hope the enemies losse will teach this young Gentleman to beware of rash undertakings*] a pretty illation from false positions, to shew you how absurd this is, I must touch upon that is past to which this referres, and if the pursuance of their former errors force me again into repetition and over-plainnesse, you must pardon me. Thus they argue [*Colonell Booth writes that Aprill the twelfth, there were not above two hundred souldiers in the Town of Leicester, this appears otherwise by Major Innes confession, who acknowledgeth that May the last, or thereabout, there was foure hundred and fifty. Colonell Booth Aprill the twelfth undertakes with five hundred men to take the Towne, the Kings Army May the last in taking of it lost so and so: Therefore we hope the Enemies losse will teach this young Gentleman to beware of rash undertakings:*] Both these particulars I have already (as I hope) fully refuted: in the first I have noted to you their confounding of times, in the second, their selfe-abuse in mis-applying that passage in my Letter, and from these pure simples do they make this rare extraction; but let it be as they say, I think all will judge, though my selfe had commanded those five hundred, it had been no great adventure, the towne being in that poore condition, I have truly informed you; the third and last, but not the least mistake this grave sentence is adorned with, is contained in this [*especially in print*] here had they had strength, they had brought forth a piece of wit, and as one not long since, though in another sense, said, *corruptio optimi pessima*, for this which should have been a handsome witty jeere (for so faine would they have had it,) is converted to an odious foolish untruth, for hereby they would tacitly intimate that I caused my own Letter printed, whereas I may solemnly affirme that I never knew nor saw it printed, but in their own book which formerly I have mentioned, and here by the way, the Reader, if he please, may peruse a list of more men lost in the gaining of Leicester then formerly he hath heard of, or perhaps will absolutely believe; Looking forward, me thinks I see the Gentlemen frowne, because in my Letter I call them the

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Grand Masters ; whereas, say they [*he further adds, that the Grand Masters, as he in scorne termes us*] It is strange, that they which arrogate so much to themselves, and affect superioritie, should not rather expect to be called of all men Rabbi's : they go on [*Most sensible of danger have all of them gotten houses in the Newark ; this also is as true, as that Capt. Hurst was killed ; for of sixteen of the Committee there was eleven had houses or lodgings in the Towne, &c.*] Again, [*And where-as he saith, he perceived the Townes-men much discontented, &c.*] To this I reply ; What I writ, was upon information, and to evidence this is reall, not fained ; here I bring the testimony of a Gentleman of qualitie, and approved fidelitie to the Parliament, who that journey accompanied me, and was an eare-witnesse of these things ; and that I may give prevention to spleene, which will alwayes have multitude of objections in readinesse, though never so frivolous ; I shall likewise publish my Letter which procured his.

For Edward Hyde Esquire.

S I R,

I Have here inclosed sent you an exact Copie of a certaine printed Accusation contrived against me, by the Committee at Leicester, occasioned by the Letter you are witnesse. I Writ there. My Vindication I am engaged to publish. I shall desire you will by a return to these, fully declare what your memory and knowledge will afford in these particulars : Whether you did not hear divers expresse their dislike and discontent of the fortifying of that place in the Town called the Newark ; Next, Whether you did not heare some of quality say, that the Committee had fixed their dwellings in the Newarke ; Whether you did not heare some of repute say, that the Townsmen were much discontented, apprehending the Committees intentions to be only to secure themselves, and expose them to the enemies fury. What number of Souldiers you judge were in the Town, by the Guard you found at our entrance, and going out of Towne, and by them you saw stirring in the streets. Lastly, Whether you by circumstance believe my Letter contrived before, or occasioned by the then Informations ; Thus in hast remains

Sir, Your kinsman and servant,

Denham Massie.

Octob. 21. 1645.

G. BOOTH.

Your answer, I pray you, to everie particular.

The Answer. For Colonell Booth.

SIR,

[Received your Letter with the inclosed, which seemes mighty strange to me, that any thing in your Letter should beget such a returne from any there, being nothing in it, that relisht of prejudice to any particular person, since what was in it, was by way of caution, least too much seeming security might beget some damage to them. But since you desire me to call to mind, what might give occasion to those lines, as farre as my memory will serve, though truly I did not much entrust my memory with what then passed; I will give you an accompt. To the first particular, I return, that I remember some of quality that came to see you, being formerly of your acquaintance, and others that were then seeming Officers, dislike many actions of the then-Committee, and amongst others, the fortifying so strongly that place called the Newarke, seating many of themselves within it, and some part of the line going to a seeming decay, which I very well remember occasioned some to say, they heard many of the Townsmen mutter, and say, that they feared, that if the town came once to be assaulted, and put hard to it, the Committee would secure themselves in that place, (it being more defensible) and expose the town to the power and fury of the enemy. To the next, What number of souldiers I might conceive to be in the town? I answer, to my best remembrance; and I remember I tooke the more notice and exact view, seeing so few in the streets, and upon the works; I lay in the town, both going up, and coming down; What there might be in Houses, I know not, but I neither saw at my going up, or coming down, to the number of 200. souldiers in all, with those that were upon their Guards upon the Works, or in the street; neither did I at either time heare the Tap-too goe, or the Trevallie, which in all other Garrisons as I went, I constantly heard. To the third and last, I dare say, and positively affirme, that your Letter was so farre from contrivement before, that the seeming weak defence of the Town, and your constant care of the publike good, was the sole mover and cause of what you then writ: and what I have returned to you in answer, I will (God willing) be ready (if I be called) to averre and make good. So with the tender of my humble service to your Lady, and faithfull respects to your selfe, concludes (Sir)

Hyde, 23. Octob.

1645.

Yours, if his own,

Edward Hyde.

My service, I pray, to Sir George, and the rest of your noble family.

This

This I conceive is so full, I shall not need to add, but proceed [*To this we answer, that certainly this young Gentleman alighted at a malignant Inn, and unlesse the Malignants of the Towne attended him there, and desired him to prefer this complaint, &c.*] this is so full of concealed malice, that were I not (as I have promised) resolved to suppress all bitterness, I might with justice retort upon them, hereby would they silently declare, that I should make choyce of a malignant Inn for my lodging, and that the Malignants knowing my affection, should have recourse to me, and employ me as their fit Agent; to this moderately thus: I shall desire to have it decided, who have committed the greater offence; my selfe a meere stranger to alight at a malignant Inn, or these Gentlemen contrarie to the trust reposed in them by the Parliament, to suffer such malignant Inn and persons to harbour amongst them; I apprehend both parts of this accusation to be so idle, that should I cast away much time about them, I might appeare more vaine than my opposers: For the first, who is there upon his Road, makes it any part of his care, how the people in his lodging stand affected; the other part, which is my acquaintance with the Malignants of the Towne, from this the character they afterwards give of me, will absolve mee, [*a stranger*] therefore unlikely to know or be knowne of the Inhabitants; these Gentlemen feast themselves on improbabilities, but whether I be acquainted or no with the disaffected of the Towne, it appeares by their owne pen, they are: I am afraid I have injured my selfe by pawing so long upon this; I shall passe to the next: [*And Whereas the Author (we) is so well-assured of Colonell Boothers good intentions in that dissuading Letter, we conceive young men seldom know their owne intentions, neither do we his:*] Here Reader you must (as formerly I have told) by the Author (*we*) understand Major Innes, and so you find them incensed against him, for passing so charitable a censure, which I am confident all that are impartiall will acknowledge my Letter is verie capable of, and if they know not my intentions, they may blame their owne ignorance, for I am certaine everie understanding man will pronounce it free from obscuritie: Having (as they fondly conceive) given me the foyle, and hugging their ugly conceptions; the Result of all is this [*This we are certaine, that this Letter hath ruined us both Towne and Countrey, and we cannot but stand amazed, to see a stranger Write with that confidence of things hee understood not, and of us he knew not; and wee have againe reprinted the Letter,*

hoping

hoping that by time and review, this young Gentleman may come to give the Towne and Countrey some satisfaction.] A charge could it be proved sufficient, to yeeld me detestable to all the world; I shall desire to know how it comes about, that I am the cause of this ruine of Towne and Countrey: Intentionally or accidentally; intentionally, they cannot have the impudence to say, the whole frame of my Letter would check them; if accidentally, so the best meanes may produce the worst effects; but if of necessitie I must be the occasion of the losse of the Towne and Countie of Leicester, upon the same ground, likewise of the happie revolution of things begun in Naisby field, and by Gods great mercie continued ever since; they stand amazed at my confident writing, I more at theirs, which publisheth to the world so much spleen & malice; do but cast your eye over my expressions, and I dare presume you will joyne with me in admiration of their senselessly perverting the sense of my lines: I urge the great consequence the place is of, the weak condition it is in, my feare of the losse of it, all this to move an especiall consideration, if care then be the means to lose, I plead guiltie, otherwise not; but perhaps (for I would willingly meet their thoughts) they would suppose my Letter a mediate cause of the restraint from fortifying the Newark, and had they finished that work, all had been safe; I shall desire to be resolved what securitie this place could have been to the Towne, these unkind distractions have given us the poore advantage of this experience, that when common Souldiers have a defensible place to retreat unto, they will scarce be perswaded to scuffle for an out-work, and by their owne words it appeares, that it was not their designe to contest with the Enemy for the Towne, thus in another part of their pamphlet you have it, [*Wee consent with Major Innes, that it is a vast Line, but under his favour, we differ upon the defence of it; for fifteen hundred men cannot halfe man it against a great Army: which wee fore-seeing, endeavoured the fortifying the Newark, the Works being neere foure miles in circuit.*] By this it is evident, the Newark was the only Garrison they intended to maintain, and if the Line of the Towne be of so vast a compasse, did they intend to man it, the greater is the shame no more were provided than five hundred listd Souldiers, besides Townes-men; But how is it, that this Letter hath ruined both Towne and Countrey? Had I entrusted my advice, which being followed, led on such ill event, they had had reason; but if you strictly examine it, you shall find, I go no further

further than thus, being a servant to the State, to represent what information gives me to believe may prove inconvenient, and leave it to them, in whom it is, to judge and prevent; may be they will say, their desisting from that work invited the Royall Army thither; a partiall conjecture: But it is not improbable that the paucitie of the Souldiers in the Towne, and some other things I will not name, might make the designe seeme feasible, and so draw on the Enemies attempt.

I hope now I have fulfilled these Gentlemens desires, in giving not only that Towne and Countie, but also all the world ample satisfaction, how free I am from their great, but groundlesse imputations. I have been more tedious than I could have desired, hoping to stop their further clamours; but if they will needs be pamphletting, and reply upon me, I would have them know, I shall better employ my time, than in jangling with them. Therefore briefly and plainly thus; This is the first time I have troubled the Presse, and in this sort shall be the last.

G. BOOTH.